



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Public Affairs Section

Accredited in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu

Media Release

May 10, 2013

United States Provides Disaster Relief Assistance in Response to the Dengue Outbreaks in Solomon Islands

The United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society (SIRCS) \$50,000 (USD) to respond to the needs of disaster-affected people in Solomon Islands as a result of ongoing dengue outbreaks in affected areas within the country.

U.S. Ambassador Walter North presented the donation to SIRCS Chief Executive Officer Joanne Zoleveke in Honiara on Thursday, May 9 at 3:00 p.m. The grant handover took place during the SIRCS staff's Lessons Learned Workshop for the earthquake and tsunami in Temotu. In addition to SIRCS staff, representatives from the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health were also present for the grant handover.

In response to the Solomon Islands Government's request for donors' assistance to bring the dengue outbreak under control, U.S. Ambassador to Solomon Islands Walter North issued a disaster declaration on April 19. This assistance will support ongoing assistance to dengue affected populations, in particular, the government of the Solomon Islands' attempts to control the spread of dengue and eliminate vectors that cause the spread of the disease.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported that between January 1 and April 15, 2013, approximately 1,970 suspected and confirmed cases of dengue fever were reported in country.

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is responsible for providing non-food humanitarian assistance in response to international crises and disasters. USAID/OFDA has a long history of working in close partnership with the governments of Melanesian countries. In February 2013, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to SIRCS to support disaster relief efforts in Temotu Province in response to the earthquake and tsunami on February 6.

Since 2011, USAID/OFDA provided \$153,352 to the Vanuatu Red Cross Society and \$150,050 to the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society for the Together Building Resilience (TBR) Program—a community-based DRR program focused on strengthening and building DRR knowledge and skills in targeted vulnerable communities.

###

Supporting Inclusive, Sustainable, and Transparent Economic Growth in Melanesia

Tel: +675 321-1455

pdportmoresby@state.gov

<http://portmoresby.usembassy.gov>

Find us on Facebook: U.S. Embassy - Port Moresby